

Ordinance No. 03-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE III, DIVISIONS ONE AND TWO, SECTION EIGHT OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CODE, ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR BASIC AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR CLASSES OF CERTIFICATES; ESTABLISHING APPLICATION PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CERTIFICATION RIGHTS; PROVIDING FOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY; ELIMINATING THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS; ELIMINATING AMBULANCE SERVICES HOSPITAL TRIAGE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, as follows:

**Section 1. Purpose and Scope.**

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to Chapter 401.25(6), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of providing standards and necessary regulations for the issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity for basic and advanced life support services. This Ordinance shall apply and be in force within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Leon County. To the extent this Ordinance is more restrictive than the requirements of Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, or ~~Title 10D-66~~, Rule 64E-2, Florida Administrative Code, the provisions of this Ordinance shall prevail.

**Section 2. Definitions.**

The definitions set forth in Chapter 401.23, Florida Statutes, are incorporated herein by reference and are not generally repeated. When used in this

ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them by this section:

- (1) “Ambulance” or “emergency medical services vehicle”: any privately or publicly owned land, air or water vehicle that is designed, constructed, reconstructed, maintained, equipped, or operated for, and is used for, or intended to be used for, land or water transportation of sick or injured persons who may need medical attention during transport.
- (2) “Board”: the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida.
- (3) “Certificate”: a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the Board of County Commissioners to a private or public entity which authorizes the entity to provide emergency medical services countywide.
- (4) “Council”: the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council of Leon County.
- (5) “County”: the incorporated and unincorporated areas within the territorial limits of Leon County, Florida.
- (6) “Department”: the Florida Department of Health ~~and Rehabilitative Services.~~
- (7) “First Responder”: Pursuant to Section 401.435, F.S., an individual who possesses the required state certification and licensure credentials to provide First Response and is acting has been trained and is serving under proper medical direction shall be permitted to respond to pre-hospital emergency medical incidents.

- 1 (8) "License": any license or transfer of license issued by the  
2 Department of Health and ~~Rehabilitative Services~~ pursuant to  
3 Chapter 401, Florida Statutes.
- 4 (9) "Operator": any person engaged in business as the owner,  
5 proprietor, purchaser, or lessee of ambulances, emergency medical  
6 services vehicles, air ambulances, or other vehicles intended to be  
7 used for basic, advanced life support services or emergency  
8 transportation services in Leon County.
- 9 (10) "Patient": an individual who is ill, sick, injured, wounded or  
10 otherwise incapacitated and is in need of or can be expected to need  
11 emergency medical care.
- 12 (11) "Permit": any authorization issued pursuant to the provisions of  
13 Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, for a vehicle to be operated as a  
14 transport vehicle providing basic or advanced life support or a  
15 non-transport vehicle providing basic life support.
- 16 (12) "Person": any individual, firm, association, partnership,  
17 corporation, local government, or any other group, combination of  
18 individuals or entities acting as a unit.
- 19 (13) "Rules and Regulations": those specific requirements and  
20 guidelines which are promulgated and periodically revised by the  
21 Board and codified in this ordinance. Each hospital's capability to  
22 handle certain types of triage cases depends upon the composition  
23 of its medical Staff, which is subject to frequent changes.
- 24 (14) "Vehicle": includes aircraft, landcraft and watercraft.
- 25

26 **Section 3. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.**

There is hereby created the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council of Leon County. Membership of the Council shall consist of the County Administrator, the City Manager of the City of Tallahassee, the Administrator of Tallahassee Memorial ~~Healthcare Regional Medical Center~~, Inc. (TMH ~~RMC~~), and the Medical Director of the Emergency Department of TMH, the Administrator of Tallahassee Medical Center, Inc. Community Hospital (TCH), and the Medical Director of the Emergency Department of TCH. It shall be the duty of the Council to make recommendations to the Board and its administrative staff as to the significant needs, issues ~~problems~~ and opportunities relating to emergency medical services, including the provision of ambulance service in the County, and such other duties as may be prescribed under this ordinance.

**Section 4. Certificates Required.**

No person shall operate any of the services as described in this ordinance unless a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is first obtained from the Board.

**Section 5. Classification of Certificates.**

Certificates shall be classified, and certificate holders shall operate in accordance with the classification of each service category as follows:

- (1) Advanced Life Support Services Certificate: Holders of this certificate shall:
  - (a) provide advanced life support treatment as defined under Florida Statutes, 401.23;
  - (b) include ~~both~~ land ~~and~~ or air vehicles in its service;
  - (c) maintain its vehicle and operate its treatment program with the intention of providing both medical treatment and transportation for those treated, on a regular basis

1 throughout the County, as a matter of established operational  
2 policy.

3 (2) Basic Life Support Services Certificate:

4 Holders of this certificate shall:

- 5 (a) provide basic life support treatment as defined under Florida  
6 Statutes, 401.23;  
7 (b) operate with no intention of providing transportation to those  
8 treated.  
9 (c) First Responders as defined herein shall be considered  
10 appropriate providers of Basic Life Support Services.  
11

12 Section 6. Certificate Application.

13 Every application for a certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  
14 under this ordinance shall be in writing, signed and sworn by the applicant and  
15 shall be filed with the Board. ~~Applications shall be submitted to the Board during~~  
16 ~~the period May 1 through June 30.~~ The application shall contain the following:

- 17 (1) The name, age and address of the applicant and the length of time  
18 the applicant has resided in the County if the applicant is an  
19 individual; the business name of the partnership and the name, age  
20 and address of each partner and the length of time each partner has  
21 resided in the County if the application is a partnership; the names  
22 and residences of all officers and directors if the applicant is a  
23 corporation.  
24 (2) If the applicant is a corporation, the type and number of shares  
25 outstanding and the name ~~of~~ and the addresses of shareholders.

- (3) The date of incorporation or formation of the entity ~~business~~ association.
- (4) A description of the services to be provided.
- (5) The addresses of the applicant's present and proposed base station location and all sub-stations.
- (6) The names and certification numbers of all emergency medical technicians, paramedics, first responders, drivers or other attendants employed by or affiliated with the applicant.
- (7) The year, model, type, Department Permit number, motor vehicle or FAA license number and mileage of every ambulance, rescue vehicle or other type of transporting or responding vehicle used by the applicant. The date of the last major overhaul must also be included for aircraft utilization by applicant in responding to and transporting from a medical incident.
- (8) A description of the applicant's communication system, including its assigned frequency, call number, mobiles, portables, range and hospital communications ability.
- (9) A proposed operating budget for the purpose of demonstrating financial ability to perform and commitment to providing described services.
- (10) Verified Proof that the applicant and its employees possess all required federal and state licenses and permits.
- (11) The name of the municipalities and the description of all geographic areas that the applicant has previously been authorized to serve, including Leon County, any other county in Florida, or any other state.

- 1 (12) A list of current charges or a schedule of proposed charges for  
2 transportation and treatment of patients and a written statement of  
3 intent to notify the Board in writing of any proposed future fee  
4 increase, including rationale for the increase.
- 5 (13) A sworn statement signed by the applicant or his/her authorized  
6 representative stating that all the information provided by the  
7 applicant in the application is true and correct.
- 8 (14) Pursuant to Rules 64E-2.002(4) and 64E-2.003(7), F.A.C., a list of  
9 medical equipment and supplies which will to be routinely carried  
10 equipped and maintained in on each emergency medical services  
11 vehicle.
- 12 (15) A statement, policy, certificate, or irrevocable letter of commitment  
13 to insure, from an insurance company satisfactory to the Board,  
14 shall be attached to the application, and shall specify  
15 coverages/limits for public liability, property damage and  
16 malpractice insurance as provided in this ordinance or a surety bond  
17 conditioned for the payment and satisfaction of any final judgement  
18 as required by this ordinance.
- 19 (16) Compilation statement showing assets and liabilities prepared by a  
20 Certified Public Accountant.
- 21 (17) A copy of the applicant's management plan which shall include a  
22 copy of standard operating procedures, attached to the application.
- 23 (18) Proof that the applicant has employed or contracted with a medical  
24 director qualified pursuant to ~~Florida law~~ Section 401.265, F.S.
- 25 (19) Any other information as may be reasonably required by the Board.
- 26 (20) The application fee established by resolution of the Board.

**Section 7. Application Review.**

- (1) Within five (5) days of receipt of an application for any certificate under this ordinance and the appropriate fee, the Board shall transmit a copy of the application to the following: The City of Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Fire Department, the Leon County Director of Emergency Management, the medical directors of EMS providers at all hospitals, the emergency rooms, existing ambulance services, and the Council members. All recommendations on the application shall be forwarded to the Council within 30 days of receipt. The Council shall then have 30 days in which to review the recommendations. Thereafter, the Council shall submit its recommendation for granting (with or without limitations) or denying the certificate to the Board no later than September 4 of the year in which the application is received.
- (2) The Council shall, within the time prescribed in Paragraph 1 of this section, review the application and cause an investigation to be made of the character and reputation of the applicant. The Council's investigation and review of the application shall include, but not be limited to the following:
  - (a) the financial responsibility of the applicant to maintain safe, comfortable services, maintain or replace medical equipment, and maintain all insurance coverage required under this ordinance.
  - (b) the condition of the emergency medical services vehicles and equipment provided by the service.



- 1 (c) the adequacy of the standard operating procedures of the  
2 applicant.
- 3 (d) the past performance and service record of the applicant  
4 obtained from sources such as hospitals, nursing homes,  
5 local public safety agencies and the Department of Health  
6 ~~and Rehabilitative Services~~.
- 7 (e) the number and type of services and governmental entities  
8 currently providing emergency basic and advanced life  
9 support emergency medical services or air medical  
10 transportation services to the area, and the effect of the  
11 proposed services on the quality and cost of any existing  
12 medical transportation or rescue services.
- 13 (f) the basis for determination of need may include, but not be  
14 limited to:
- 15 i. a computation of the ratio of estimated annual  
16 requests for service in the particular certificate  
17 category, to the current number of vehicles satisfying  
18 requests;
- 19 ii. a computation of the ratio of vehicles per 1000  
20 population.
- 21 (g) the extent to which the applicant and all proposed equipment  
22 and personnel conform to the requirements of Chapter 401,  
23 Florida Statutes, any amendments thereto, and any rules  
24 promulgated thereunder.

- 1 (h) such other facts which the Council may deem relevant in  
2 determining the fitness of the applicant to assume the  
3 occupation of an operator.

4 **Section 8. Issuance or Refusal.**

- 5 (1) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Council's  
6 recommendation, the Board shall review said recommendation and  
7 may uphold, amend or deny, in whole or in part, the  
8 recommendations of the Council. Any substantive amendment made  
9 by the Board shall be returned to the Council for further review. If  
10 the Board finds that the proposed service meets the public  
11 convenience and necessity, it may issue a certificate, subject to the  
12 limitations as the Board deems necessary to protect the public  
13 health, safety and welfare. A certificate shall be valid for a period  
14 of three years and shall not be transferable or assignable without the  
15 prior written approval of the Board.

- 16 (2) Every certificate issued under this ordinance shall state:  
17 (a) the name of the service.  
18 (b) certificate classification as specified in Section 5 of this  
19 ordinance.  
20 (c) date of issuance and date of expiration.  
21 (d) certification that the recommendations of the City of  
22 Tallahassee were considered, if any.  
23 (e) that the service territory authorized is all of Leon County.  
24 (f) the minimum number of vehicles to be used by the applicant  
25 in the rendition of such services.

- 1 (g) such conditions and limitations as the Board may deem  
2 necessary or proper in the public interest.  
3 (h) the signatures of the Chairman of the Board and the Clerk of  
4 the Courts.

5 **Section 9. Rights and Duties Granted by Certification.**

- 6 (1) Acceptance of the Advanced Life Support Services Certificate shall  
7 obligate the applicant to:  
8 (a) provide continuous and uninterrupted emergency medical  
9 services to the extent authorized by the certificate.  
10 (b) keep such records as may be required by the federal or state  
11 government or by the Board and make such records  
12 available to the County Administrator for inspection.  
13 (c) promptly respond to every call for ambulance service  
14 promptly. Patients shall be loaded and transported without  
15 being subject to unreasonable delays and without regard to  
16 financial ability to pay. All emergency response times shall  
17 be kept by the operator, and a log reflecting such response  
18 time shall be made available to the Council by for the year  
19 ending September 30 by no later than December 1 October  
20 † of each consecutive year and a report submitted to the  
21 Board within sixty (60) days thereafter.  
22 (d) operate a minimum of five Advanced Life Support  
23 ambulances on immediate call at all times. Further, every  
24 certificate holder shall be required to maintain one out-of-  
25 service (back up) state certified ambulance for every two  
26 ambulances on immediate call. The actual number of

1 ambulances required to be maintained on "immediate call"  
2 and "out-of service" shall be reviewed by the Council and  
3 the actual numbers determined pursuant to the terms of  
4 Section 7, paragraph 2 subparagraph (f).

5 (e) provide advance notice of any proposed rate changes to the  
6 Council.

7 (f) complete an ambulance run report for all emergency  
8 ambulance calls, noting the time, place of origin, destination  
9 requested by patient, actual destination, and identification of  
10 services (charge codes) for which charges are made, and  
11 such other operating and patient information as may be  
12 required by the Board or Emergency Medical Services  
13 Program Office of the Department. Every operator shall  
14 retain and preserve all daily run reports for at least five  
15 years, and such run reports shall be available for inspection  
16 by the Council upon request. The Council shall make an  
17 semi-annual review of said run reports for the year ending  
18 September 30 by no later than December ~~October~~ 1 of each  
19 consecutive year and submit its report to the Board; within  
20 sixty (60) days thereafter.

21 (g) maintain liability insurance in such amounts and with such  
22 coverage as the Board may require upon issuance of the  
23 certificate.

24 (h) operate in conformance with all federal and state laws and  
25 local ordinances.

- (i) file an application for renewal of its certificate at least 180 days prior to May 1 (by November 2).
- (j) notify the Board in writing at least 180 days prior to May 1 (by November 2) in the event the operator determines that it will not file an application for renewal of its certificate.
- (k) notify the Board in writing, in the event the operator determines that it will no longer provide services authorized under its certificate, at least 180 days prior to the date the operator plans to cease providing services in the County.
- (l) The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council is hereby delegated the authority by the Board to promulgate the rules and regulations adopted in this ordinance. Adopt and adhere to the principles contained in the "Patient's Bill of Rights." attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by this reference made a part hereof.
- ~~(m) Adopt and adhere to the principles contained in the "Ambulance Service Hospital Triage Recommendations" as adopted by both hospitals and as may be periodically revised, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and by this reference made a part hereof.~~
- (2) Acceptance of the Basic Life Support Services Certificate shall obligate the applicant to:
- (a) provide continuous and uninterrupted services to the extent authorized by the certificate.
- (b) keep such records as may be required by the federal or state government or by the Board and make such records

1 available to the County Administrator or his designee for  
2 inspection.

3 (c) promptly respond to every call for service promptly. All  
4 emergency response times shall be kept by the operator, and  
5 a log reflecting such response time shall be made available  
6 to the Council upon request. Response times shall be  
7 reviewed by the Council by May 1 and October 1 of each  
8 year and a report submitted to the Board within sixty (60)  
9 days thereafter.

10 (d) complete a run report for all emergency calls, noting the  
11 time, place and such other operating and patient information  
12 as may be required by the Board. Every operator shall  
13 retain and preserve all daily run reports for at least five  
14 years, and such run reports shall be available for inspection  
15 by the Council upon request.

16 (e) maintain liability insurance in such amounts and with such  
17 coverage as the Board may require upon issuance of the  
18 certificate.

19 (f) operate in conformance with all federal and state laws and  
20 local ordinances.

21 (g) file an application for renewal of its certificate at least 180  
22 days prior to May 1 (by November 2).

23 (h) notify the Board in writing at least 180 days prior to May 1  
24 (by November 2) in the event the operator determines that  
25 it will not file an application for renewal of its certificate.

1 (i) notify the Board in writing, in the event the operator  
2 determines that it will no longer provide services authorized  
3 under its certificate, at least 180 days prior to the date the  
4 operator plans to cease providing services in the County.

5 (j) ~~Adopt and adhere to the principles contained in the~~  
6 ~~"Patient's Bill of Rights" attached hereto and as Exhibit~~  
7 ~~"A" and by this reference made a part hereof.~~

8 **Section 10. Certificate Revocation, Modification, Suspension or**  
9 **Affirmation.**

10 Every Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued pursuant to  
11 this ordinance is subject to revocation, modification, or suspension by the Board  
12 when it is found that:

- 13 (1) the certificate holder has failed or neglected to render services as  
14 required by the certificate or the Rules and Regulations promulgated  
15 under Chapter 401, Florida Statutes; or  
16 (2) the certificate holder or its agent has demanded money or other  
17 compensation in excess of that established in its schedule of charges  
18 filed with the Council; or  
19 (3) the certificate holder has been convicted of a felony or has failed to  
20 maintain provider status with the Medicare and/or Medicaid  
21 program which involved conduct indicating the certificate holder to  
22 be of such character and capable of such conduct which fail to meet  
23 standards considered by the Board to be appropriate in the licensed  
24 activity. In determining whether to recommend revocation,  
25 suspension or modification of the certificate, the Council shall

- 1 consider (1) the nature and seriousness of the felony, and (2) the  
2 circumstances under which the felony occurred; or  
3 (4) the certificate was obtained by an application in which any material  
4 fact was omitted or falsely stated; or  
5 (5) such revocation, modification or suspension of the certificate, upon  
6 good cause shown, will best serve the public interest.

7 **Section 11. Investigative Procedures.**

- 8 (1) All unresolved issues and complaints related to the services of a  
9 certificate holder shall be referred within five (5) days of receipt of  
10 the complaint to the Council for investigation. The Council shall  
11 conduct an investigation and file a written report to the Board within  
12 sixty (60) days of receipt of the complaint.  
13 (2) The County Administrator shall notify the certificate holder by  
14 certified mail of the Council's recommendation within five (5) days  
15 of receipt thereof. If the Council determines that revocation,  
16 suspension or modification of a certificate is warranted, the notice  
17 to the certificate holder shall state the reasons for such findings and  
18 establish a hearing date. The hearing and final determination shall  
19 be held by the Board.

20 **Section 12. Rules and Regulations.**

21 The Board is hereby authorized to adopt such forms, rules, regulations and  
22 policies as may be necessary or proper to implement this ordinance.

23 **Section 13. Civil Remedies.**

24 The Board or any aggrieved person may have recourse to such remedies in  
25 law and in equity as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of



1 this ordinance, including injunctive relief to enjoin and restrain any person from  
2 violating its provisions.

3 If the Board prevails (whether by judicial decree or by settlement), it shall  
4 be awarded all of its costs and expenses, including a reasonable attorney's fee, in  
5 addition to any other relief awarded or obtained.

6 **Section 14. Transfer or Assignment.**

7 No certificate issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be assignable or  
8 transferable by the person to whom it is issued, except upon approval by the Board  
9 in the same manner and subject to the same application, investigation, fees and  
10 public hearing s original applications for certificates. Any majority transfer of  
11 shares of stock or interest of any person or operator so as to cause a change in the  
12 directors, officers, majority shareholders or managers of such person or operator  
13 shall be deemed a transfer or assignment as contemplated in this ordinance and  
14 subject to the same rules and regulations as any other transfer or assignment.

15 **Section 15. The City of Tallahassee not to Require License, Permit or**  
16 **Payment of Fees, Except Occupational License**  
17 **Authorized by General or Special Law.**

18 The City of Tallahassee shall not require any operator holding a certificate  
19 issued pursuant to this ordinance to obtain any municipal license, certificate or  
20 permit, nor require the payment of any fees for the right to operate within said  
21 municipality, except an occupational license authorized by general or special law.

22 **Section 16. Ordinance not Applicable to Government Ambulances .**

23 Nothing in this ordinance is intended to apply to any ambulance which is  
24 owned or operated by any agency of the state or federal government.

1                    **Section 17.    Turning in a False Alarm.**

2                    Whoever, without reasonable cause, by telephone or otherwise, summons  
3                    any emergency medical services vehicle pursuant to this ordinance or reports that  
4                    such vehicle is needed when such person knows or has reason to know that the  
5                    services of such vehicle are not needed, shall be guilty of violation of this  
6                    ordinance subject to punishment as provided herein.

7                    **Section 18.    Financial Responsibility of Hospitals.**

8                    ~~As long as the County's Advanced Life Support Certificate Holder (the~~  
9                    ~~"Service") is a private not-for-profit corporation and as long as the Service is~~  
10                   ~~operated at a loss on an annual basis, then each hospital in the County will assist~~  
11                   ~~in maintaining the financial integrity of the Service by insuring payment for~~  
12                   ~~services rendered to patients brought to each respective hospital. By accepting the~~  
13                   ~~services provided by the Service, each hospital agrees to pay the Service for~~  
14                   ~~patients brought to it. Each hospital will also pay the Service for services rendered~~  
15                   ~~in taking patients to and from its facility to receive special service elsewhere or to~~  
16                   ~~be transferred to another facility or location. As long as the Service operates at an~~  
17                   ~~annual loss, each hospital will pay the Service its designated charges. Each~~  
18                   ~~hospital is expected to seek reimbursement from the patients brought to it.~~  
19                   ~~Payments made by hospitals to the Service will be due within thirty (30) days of~~  
20                   ~~billing by the Service.~~

21                   ~~In the event that the Service operates at a profit, then rebates will be made~~  
22                   ~~to each hospital by the Service at the end of the fiscal year. Rebates will be made~~  
23                   ~~until profits are eliminated and the Service operates on a break-even basis.~~

24                   ~~In determining profits or losses, standard accounting rules will be~~  
25                   ~~employed. Profits and losses of the Service will be reviewed annually by the~~  
26                   ~~Council.~~

1                   **Section 189. Violations and Penalties.**

2                   Violations of this ordinance shall be subject to punishment as provided by  
3 Chapter 125.69, Florida Statutes. Violators shall be prosecuted by the Office of  
4 the State Attorney in the same manner as misdemeanors are prosecuted and, upon  
5 conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500. In addition, the  
6 violators shall, upon conviction, pay all costs and expenses involved in the case.  
7 Each day or fraction thereof that a violation continues shall be considered a  
8 separate offense.

9                   **Section 1920. Effect on Other Ordinances.**

10                  The provisions of this ordinance shall prevail in the event of conflict with  
11 the provisions of any existing Leon County ordinance or regulation.

12                  **Section 201. Severability.**

13                  If any section, phrase, sentence, portion, or application of this Ordinance  
14 is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent  
15 jurisdiction, such portion or application shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and  
16 independent provision or application, and such holding shall not affect the validity  
17 of the remaining portions or applications thereof.

18                  **Section 212. Construction of Ordinance.**

19                  The provisions of this ordinance shall be liberally construed in order to  
20 effectively carry out the purposes of this ordinance in the interest of the public  
21 health, safety and welfare of the citizens and residents of Leon County.

22                  **Section 223. Effective Date.**

23                  In accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, a certified copy of this  
24 Ordinance shall be filed with the Department of State by the Clerk of the Board of  
25 County Commissioners within ten (10) days after enactment, and this Ordinance

1 shall take effect on June 1, 2003. ~~upon receipt of official acknowledgement that~~  
2 ~~said Ordinance has been filed.~~

3 Approved by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida,  
4 in regular meeting duly assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

6 LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

8 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Tony Grippa, Chairman  
10 Board of County Commissioners

11  
12 ATTEST: Robert Inzer, Clerk of the Court

13  
14  
15 By: \_\_\_\_\_

16  
17  
18  
19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
20 County Attorney's Office  
21 Leon County, Florida

22  
23  
24 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Herbert W.A. Thiele, Esq.  
26 County Attorney

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32  
33  
34

35 ~~PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS~~

36  
37 ~~The Patient's Bill of Rights shall be as follows:~~

38  
39 ~~The patient has a right to treatment that is available or medically indicated regardless of race,~~  
40 ~~creed, sex, national origin, or sources of payment for care.~~

1 The patient has a right to considerate and respectful care.

2  
3 The patient has the right, within the law, to personal and informational privacy including:

4  
5 ~~—— The refusal to see or talk with anyone not directly connected with his care, or~~  
6 ~~individuals not connected with the hospital operator of the service.~~

7  
8 ~~—— To wear appropriate clothing, religious or symbolic items that do not interfere with his~~  
9 ~~care.~~

10  
11 ~~—— To be examined in surroundings that assure reasonable privacy, and have an individual~~  
12 ~~of their same sex present during examination.~~

13  
14 ~~—— To expect that any discussions regarding his care be conducted discreetly.~~

15  
16 ~~—— To have his medical record read only by individual's directly involved in his care, or~~  
17 ~~quality of care, and others only on his written authorization.~~

18  
19 ~~—— To expect that all communications and other records pertaining to his care, including~~  
20 ~~source of payment, be treated as confidential.~~

21  
22 ~~—— To request transfer to another room if another patient or visitor unreasonably disturbs~~  
23 ~~him.~~

24  
25 ~~—— To have protective privacy when considered necessary for personal safety.~~

26  
27 The patient has the right to expect reasonable safety as far as hospital practices and environment  
28 are concerned.

29  
30 The patient has the right to obtain from his physician complete, current information regarding  
31 his diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis in terms that the patient can be reasonably expected to  
32 understand.

33  
34  
35 The patient has the right to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing  
36 service to him and to know who is primarily responsible for his care. He also has the right to  
37 know of any professional relationship of his hospital to other health care and educational  
38 institutions insofar as his care is concerned.  
39

1 ~~The patient has the right of access to people outside the hospital by means of visitors, and by~~  
2 ~~verbal and written communication.~~

3  
4 ~~The patient has the right to receive from his physician information necessary to give informed~~  
5 ~~consent prior to the start of any procedure and/or treatment.~~

6  
7 ~~The patient has the right to know if the hospital proposes to engage in or perform human~~  
8 ~~experimentation affecting his care or treatment and has the right to refuse to participate in~~  
9 ~~same.~~

10  
11 ~~The patient has the right at his request and expense to consult with a specialist.~~

12  
13 ~~The patient has the right to refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law and to be informed~~  
14 ~~of the medical consequences of his action.~~

15  
16 ~~The patient has the right to expect reasonable continuity of care.~~

17  
18 ~~The patient has the right to request and receive an itemized and detailed explanation of his total~~  
19 ~~bill for services rendered by the hospital.~~

20  
21 ~~The patient has the right to know what hospital rules and regulations apply to his conduct as~~  
22 ~~a patient.~~  
23  
24

LEON COUNTY EMS COUNCIL  
AMBULANCE SERVICE HOSPITAL TRIAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSE: ~~To establish an agreement between TMRMC and TCH in determining the hospital designation of Ambulance patients.~~

~~This agreement supplements and clarifies the Leon County Ordinance relating to EMS Services.~~

~~It is agreed that the following guidelines will be used to determine if an Ambulance patient is to be transferred to TMRMC or TCH.~~

HOSPITAL DESIGNATION CRITERIA:

~~A. THE FOLLOWING PATIENTS WILL ALWAYS BE TAKEN TO TMRMC:~~

- ~~1.) All Trauma patients with a Glasgow Coma Score  $\leq$  10.~~
- ~~2.) All Trauma patients with Champion Trauma Score  $\leq$  10.~~
- ~~3.) All Burn Patients with partial or full thickness burns  $\geq$  15% Body Surface Area (BSA).~~
- ~~4.) All Trauma patients with Suspected Spinal Cord injury and/or Paralysis.~~
- ~~5.) Pediatric Emergencies.~~
- ~~6.) Psychiatric Emergencies will be taken to Appalachian Mental Health Center or TMRMC, as appropriate.~~

~~B. CRITICAL, UNCONSCIOUS, OR TRAUMA PATIENTS - GUIDELINES:~~

~~If a patient requires immediate lifesaving care, they should be taken to the nearest hospital capable of meeting the anticipated medical needs, regardless of the patient's or families expressed choice. (Except as specified in Paragraph A above and Note 3 hereafter.)~~

~~NOTE: Generally, these patients will be comatose, or have an altered mental status. If the rational patient's or family's wishes are contrary to these guidelines, the Paramedics will use their best judgment, or contact the Emergency Director for advice.~~

~~C. NON-CRITICAL PATIENTS:~~

- ~~1.) Any patient that is of legal age, conscious, alert, and mentally competent will be taken to the hospital of their choice. If a family member is present, they may participate in this choice.~~
- ~~2.) If the patient has no preferred choice, the hospitals will be named, and the patient will choose.~~
- ~~3.) If patient has no hospital preferred choice, or seems not able to make a rational decision, then the patient will be taken to the "closest hospital". (See Note 3)~~

NOTES:

- ~~1.) Paramedics will advise the receiving hospital by radio or telephone of their status, estimated arrival time, and the patient's personal physician (if any). If the emergency department advises that the patient's physician does not practice there, then the patient will be taken to the other hospital (if the patient desires), unless there is a life-threatening emergency.~~
- ~~2.) If one hospital is overloaded, or otherwise unable to provide the care required, then the patient is to be taken to the other hospital. This will require direct communication and cooperation between the physicians and administration at each hospital.~~
- ~~3.) "Closest Hospital" - The Paramedics will use their best judgment and experience to determine the "closest hospital". Any discrepancies or disputes concerning patient transfers will be worked out by the Administrators/Medical Directors of the Ambulance Services, or the Supervisory EMS Council if required.~~

Recommended and Approved by:

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5  
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